



Deb Miller, Secretary

Department of Transportation

Sam Brownback, Governor

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For more information, contact:

Steve Swartz, (785) 296-3585, cell (785) 221-5615; stevesw@ksdot.org

Governor cites economic impact, safety in announcing North Central Kansas road projects

MCPHERSON – Road projects that will have major economic impact on North Central Kansas as well as significantly enhance safety were announced here today by Gov. Sam Brownback.

The Governor, who was introduced by McPherson Mayor Thomas Brown at the McPherson Airport, said a new interchange will be built at I-135 and Mohawk Road in McPherson, opening the industrial park to additional development. The \$13 million project is projected to have an economic impact of \$94 million. The Governor also mentioned an expansion project he announced in February that will support expansion at Fort Riley by turning K-18 into a four-lane freeway between the fort and Manhattan. All projects announced are funded under the state's 2010 transportation program T-WORKS.

"These projects will provide the infrastructure needed to create or take advantage of economic opportunities that will have a lasting impact on the Kansas economy," Gov. Brownback said.

"This wise, well-thought-out, innovative use of our precious dollars helps put Kansas on the road to growth."

Other projects announced today take a dollar-stretching practical improvement approach to provide intersection improvement and lane expansion on U.S. 77 in Geary County, passing lanes on U.S. 50 between Emporia and Hutchinson, and widened shoulders on K-177 from Council Grove to I-70.

“Because T-WORKS is significantly smaller than earlier programs, we’ve worked hard to stretch our dollars, coming up with innovations and new approaches,” said Kansas Transportation Secretary Deb Miller, who is accompanying Gov. Brownback on this week’s four-day, five-city announcement tour.

“We are designing to a budget rather than to the full-blown scopes of past projects, recognizing that some improvement is better than no improvement at all.”

The list of expansion and modernization projects announced today can be viewed on the T-WORKS website at <http://www.ksdot.org/t-works/>. Projects for other regions of the state also will be posted on the T-WORKS website and updated daily after announcements.

The Governor’s announcement schedule for the rest of the week is:

- **Thursday** – Dodge City, 10 a.m., United Wireless Arena, 4100 W. Comanche. Projects for Northwest and Southwest Kansas will be announced.
- **Friday** – Kansas City, Kan., 10 a.m., Kansas Speedway administrative offices, just north of the I-70/110th Street interchange. Projects for Northeast Kansas will be announced.

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